

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one month set to expire on October 14, 2005. Claims 35-43 remain pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for conducting the interview on October 12, 2005. The arguments and amendments herein are presented in accordance with the substance of the interview to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 37-38 as unpatentable over the lost count 1 on the grounds of estoppel (prior claims 1, 2, 10, 12-14, 17 and 18 correspond to the lost count 1). The Examiner rejected claims 35-40 as unpatentable over the lost count 2 on the grounds of estoppel (prior claims 15-20 correspond to the lost count 2). The Examiner rejected claims 41-43 as unpatentable over the lost counts on the grounds of estoppel. The Examiner states that Grasso is entitled to the claimed "only one single mode core" because Grasso discloses an optical fiber amplifier device having only one single-mode core in the background of the invention. According to the Examiner, "the background art of Grasso anticipates the claimed 'only one single mode core', therefore the other teachings of Grasso are moot relative estoppel."

In response, Applicants have amended claims 35-43. As amended, claim 35 includes the limitation of a pump light-attenuating fiber comprising a fiber-type grating reflector for reflecting pump light, and claims 37 and 42 include the limitation of a means for preventing the excitation comprising a fiber-type grating reflector for reflecting pump light. These additional limitations are supported in col. 5, lines 29-30 of the present application. Neither Grasso U.S. Patent No. 5,087,108 nor Grasso U.S. Patent No. 5,245,467 discloses a fiber-type grating reflector for reflecting pump light. As amended, claim 36 includes the limitation of a first end of each of said pump light-attenuating fiber sections connected in series to a respective one of the second ends of said gain fiber sections. These additional limitations are supported in col. 6, lines 18-21 of the present application. Neither Grasso '108 nor Grasso '467 discloses an end of a first


and a second light-attenuating fiber section connected in series with a first and a second gain optical fiber section. As amended, claims 39, 41, and 43 include the limitation of a means for preventing the excitation of said pumped gain ions by light of wavelength λ_p wherein means for preventing the excitation is disposed between the gain optical fiber and the filtering means and the means for preventing the excitation includes an optical fiber having a dopant that substantially attenuates light at wavelength λ_p . These additional limitations are supported in col. 4, lines 64-67 of the present application. Neither Grasso '108 nor Grasso '467 discloses a means for preventing the excitation disposed between the gain optical fiber and the filtering means, wherein the means for preventing the excitation includes an optical fiber having a dopant that substantially attenuates light at wavelength λ_p .

Since neither Grasso '108 nor Grasso '467 discloses or suggests any of the limitations being added to the pending claims in this amendment, Applicants submit that the amended claims properly avoid the subject matter of the lost counts and also are not anticipated or rendered obvious by either of the Grasso references or a combination thereof. For these reasons, amended claims 35-43 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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